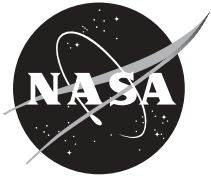




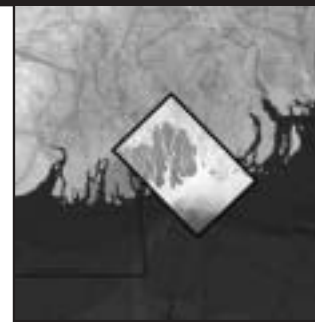
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Ganges River Delta

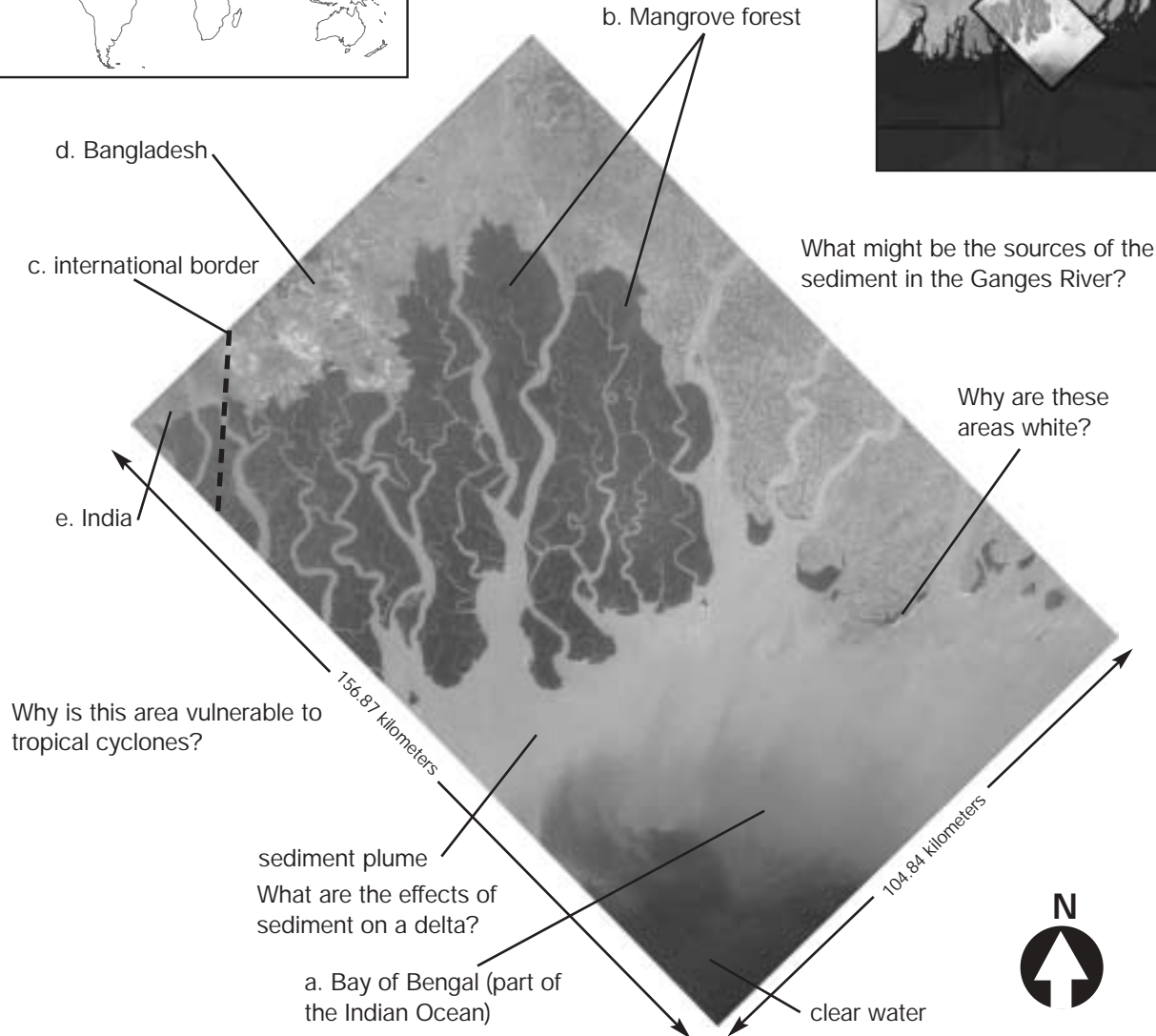




Ganges River Delta



Latitude: 89.57° E **Longitude:** 22.01° N
Date: January 13, 1997
Image ID #: STS081.ESC.00212933



This image shows the Sundarbans, the central part of the large delta of the Ganges River in western Bangladesh. The Ganges River, one of the world's longest rivers, carries a tremendous load of sediment eroded from the Himalayan region. When the river enters the Bay of Bengal (a) at the India-Bangladesh border, sediment is deposited to form the delta at the coastline. The suspended sediment gives the water a very muddy color.

At the end of the delta, the combined actions of river and tidal flow create a complex network of water channels forming many islands. The dark-colored land in the delta is mangrove forest (b) in a coastal preserve and is one of the last habitats for Bengal tigers. The lighter, reddish-colored land has been completely deforested of mangrove trees and supports a very large human population. The border (c) of Bangladesh (d) with India (e) is at the far western corner of the image.

Additional information:
ISS EarthKAM images and lessons:
<http://www.earthkam.ucsd.edu>
NASA Spacelink:
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov>